



Behind the scenes of the Franklin Fire Department with James Marlin

by Fire and Life Safety Educator Jamie Melton

Dependable, invaluable and irreplaceable are just a few of the words Franklin Firefighters use to describe James Marlin, the department's General Services Technician.

Working quietly behind the scenes, James is the one responsible for keeping all 150+ personnel uniformed and all six (6) fire stations stocked with everything they need – from basic EMS safety gloves and glasses to truck parts and cleaning supplies.

In other words, if a firefighter needs something, James is the one he or she calls.

"He consistently provides anything and everything we need to function on a daily basis," says Captain Clay Mackey. "He's invaluable to our daily operations."

Before joining the department 10 years ago, James was the Warehouse Manager for Aeroquip and then Telco.

"I'm still in kind of like a warehouse, but there's a lot that's different," said James. "Mainly dealing with uniforms." James had no previous uniform experience, and the system was a bit disjointed when he arrived. "Everything was in lockers at different stations," said James. "They had no idea what they had in inventory." James obtained some old clothing display racks from the mall that were going to be discarded, and he used these to set up one central "shop." Today James has two storage areas located at Station 2 (907 Murfreesboro Rd.), where his office is.



Fire Engineer Daryl Jones (left) and James Marlin



His uniform room is organized much like a clothing store: folded t-shirts in varying sizes on tables, turnout gear and uniforms hanging on racks, belts and helmets on the wall, and an area with boots and footwear. His second supply room is stocked from floor to ceiling with paper towels, cleaning supplies, truck-care supplies, and more.

James continually receives requests for uniforms, parts, and supplies, and somehow



manages to fill every request promptly. He says, "If they need something, I carry it to them if I have it. If I don't, I go get it for them." James makes regular deliveries to all the stations on Thursdays, and throughout the week as needed. He says he keeps track of things on his computer, but he always has a pad of paper with him so he can write things down.

"He's a master at what he does," says Firefighter Wylie Jones. "He's very meticulous and very, very organized. He always seems to know what he has on hand."

James is modest when he receives compliments, saying, "After you do it awhile, you know what you need and when you need it. You know how it flows."

James and his wife live in Williamson County and have two adult daughters who also live with their spouses in the Middle Tennessee area. They are expecting their first granddaughter in September. In his spare time James umpires girls fast-pitch softball for ages 8-18, something he's been doing for the past 30 years.

When asked what his favorite part of the job is with the Franklin Fire Department, James says without hesitation, "The guys. Doing stuff for them." He added, "They are my second family. That's how they treat me and that's how I feel."



Franklin Fire Department members attend "Incident Command Seminar" Fire and Disaster Management in Hoover, AL in May

by Captain Chris Brown

Recently, Franklin Fire Chief Rocky Garzarek and several Franklin Fire Department officers attended a Fire and Disaster Management seminar in Hoover, AL.

Hosted by the Central Alabama Fire Chiefs Association and the Alabama Fire College, the two-day training session was designed for Chief Officers and Officers who serve as Incident Commanders during fires and other disasters.

In addition to Chief Garzarek, Franklin Fire attendees included Battalion Chief Greg Baltimore and Captains Chris Brown, David Currie, Jonathan Jenkins, Glenn Johnson, David Kolak, and Joe Polenzani.



Captain Chris Brown



Franklin, TN: NWS confirms EF0 tornado

The event began on May 8th with presenters from many Alabama agencies that had provided emergency response during the violent April 2011 tornado outbreak. This particular tornado event was the deadliest in the United States since 1965, claiming the lives of 253 Alabamians. Speakers from Jefferson County EMA, Shelby County EMA, Tuscaloosa County EMA, and the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa Fire Departments shared lessons learned.

The training was invaluable for our members, as we have seen occurrences of tornadoes in our community. On April 26, 2012, we saw what an EF0 tornado with winds of 80-85 mph can do. Touching

down in the Jim Warren Park area where children were playing ball, it toppled cars and did structural damage. Fortunately, no loss of life occurred. In contrast, the largest of the tornadoes recorded in the 2011 Alabama tornado outbreak was determined to be an EF4 with winds up to 260 mph.

On May 9th, FDNY Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (Retired) was the morning speaker. This was a great opportunity for our department members to meet and learn from an innovative thinker within the industry. In his fire service career, which has spanned decades, Deputy Chief Dunn has helped to mold and develop modern strategies and tactics that are utilized on fire grounds and emergency scenes today.



Pictured L to R: Captains David Currie, Glenn Johnson, Chris Brown, FDNY Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (Retired), Captains Joe Polenzani, Jonathan Jenkins, David Kolak, and Fire Chief Rocky Garzarek (Battalion Chief Greg Baltimore not pictured)

On the evening of the 9th, the closing speaker was FDNY Battalion Chief Frank Montagna. He shared his vast knowledge of best practices for commanding fire scenes with our fire department members.

It was an educational and exciting event, and I'm grateful to Chief Garzarek for the opportunity to attend.